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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/897,663	07/02/2001	Yumiko Azuma	1457	9841
4518	7590	01/05/2004	EXAMINER	
ROBERT W. J. USHER PATENT AGENT 1133 BROADWAY, #1515 NEW YORK, NY 10010			VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/897,663	AZUMA, YUMIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hien D. Vu	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 1, lines 22-24, the features "the housing having a contact-retaining ... retained tightly" are still unclear since these features were not clearly disclosed in the specification. The feature "thick, vertically extending wall" is broad and unclear as to what part of the housing is referred as "thick wall" and the feature "contacts are retained tightly" is unclear how the contacts could be retained tightly.

2. Claims 1 and 4 are also objected to because claim 1, lines 9-10, the feature "another end ... circuit board and line 17, the feature "said connecting portions ... circuit board" appears to be redundant; last line, a period should be inserted after "portions".

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

4. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harting et al (5,639,251).

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Insofar as the claim can be understood due to the indefiniteness above, the disclosure of Harting provides a complete response to each and every element set forth in the claim. For example: Fig. 1 shows a housing 2 having a fitting part 1 for engageable with a mating connector, a mounting bottom surface (not labeled), a plurality of electrical contacts 3 with one end of each contact being positioned at the fitting part and the other end forming a connecting portion to be connected to a circuit board 6, a foot portion extending at each side of the housing, the fitting part has a lower surface 8 and the mounting bottom surface of the housing is located higher than the lower surface and a step (not labeled) is formed between the lower surface and the mounting bottom surface, the housing having contact retaining portions within a thick vertical extending wall for retaining contact retaining portions of contacts tightly and the step being aligned vertically below the contact-retaining portions.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harting et al (251) in view of Yang (6,190,183).

Harting does not show the contacts being retained in the contact retaining wall by press-fitting. Yang, Fig. 1 show contacts 20 being retained in a retaining wall of a housing 4 by press-

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fitting. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Harting by forming the contacts to be press fitting in the retaining wall, as taught by Yang, in order to allow easier assembly and repair.

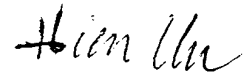
8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

9. Lenoir and Chikano are cited for disclosure of printed circuit board connectors.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien Vu at telephone number (703) 308-2009.

Vu/ek

12/17/03

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hien Vu", is located in the lower right area of the page.